

Classical Studies



Welcome to the first edition of our new-look subject update, which replaces the letter you would have received previously. This update complements our regular monthly and weekly communications, with more information relevant to your subject, and details of what we have been working on.

I would encourage you to make regular use of our subject pages, where you will find support documents and links to other areas of interest. Documents that must be treated confidentially can be found on our secure site and you can arrange access to these through your SQA Co-ordinator.

I hope you find the following update helpful, and please contact me if you have any questions.

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Contacting the team

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Updates

National 5 assignment

The Course Assessment Task and the Instructions for Candidates have been revised in order to provide guidance and clarification of the requirements for the Resource Sheet for the National 5 assignment. The template for the Resource Sheet has also been amended following feedback from teachers.

New Higher – example question papers

We will be publishing an additional example question paper for this Course. This will show you how existing past paper questions or items have been amended and adapted for use as support for Course assessment preparation. This will provide an additional support for centres, alongside the specimen question paper previously published and the guidance on the use of past papers document.

Advanced Higher

The development of the new Advanced Higher Classical Studies Course is progressing with the support of the Subject Working Group and Qualifications Design Team. The new Advanced Higher Course will build on the strengths of the existing Advanced Higher Course.

We will publish the following documents to support implementation of the new Advanced Higher Course:

- ◆ Unit assessment support documents in three packages:
 - package 1 – October 2014
 - package 2 – February 2015
 - package 3 – April 2015
 - ◆ the Advanced Higher Course comparison document, covering points of change and areas of stability, which will illustrate progression from Higher and provide further details on the Course content and assessment
 - ◆ Guidance on the use of past paper questions for Advanced Higher
 - ◆ Specimen question paper
 - ◆ Coursework documentation
 - ◆ final versions of all mandatory Course documents which will be published in June 2015
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Support and guidance

Finalised Marking Instructions for the 2014 National 5 Classical Studies question paper will be published on the relevant subject pages of SQA's website.

Guidance on performance in external Course assessments and evidence generated for internal assessment is published annually. This includes Course Reports, External Assessment Reports and Verification Key Messages, all of which will be available in the autumn via the relevant subject pages of SQA's website. Internal Assessment Reports will not be published for the new National Courses.

The following Verification Key Messages are now available:

◆ **National 4 to National 5 Classical Studies**

Please take time to read the above report it contains useful feedback on candidate performance in 2013–14.

Looking ahead to 2014–15

We would like to express our gratitude and extend our thanks to all those who have undertaken duties in session 2013–14. We appreciate the work that all the teams carry out and look forward to continuing to work with them during session 2014–15.

Recruitment opportunities

We are currently in the process of recruiting for a number of vacancies that we are looking to fill between now and February 2015. Vacancies include new and replacement appointments for the following roles in relation to the new qualifications:

- ◆ Advanced Higher Item Writers and Item Checkers
- ◆ Advanced Higher Question Paper Reviewers and Question Paper Validator
- ◆ Higher Principal Assessor
- ◆ Higher Markers
- ◆ National 5 Markers

For more information, please visit <http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfeappointeevacancies>

Understanding Standards

Throughout session 2014–15, we will be publishing a range of Understanding Standards materials for both Unit and Course assessment. These materials will include candidate evidence with commentaries and can be used by centres for training and bench-marking purposes. We will also run Understanding Standards events for Unit assessment, for Nominees to share knowledge of Unit assessment with their colleagues. In addition, we will run Understanding Standards events for Course assessment for National 5, which will be open to all subject specialists.

Further information will follow in SQA's weekly and monthly centre updates.
